# Designing mathematics problem-solving assessment with GeoGebra Classroom: proving the instrument validity

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Mathematics education is looking for innovative methods to foster problemsolving skills in students. This research develops a problem-solving assessment using GeoGebra Classroom, a versatile interactive mathematics software, to revolutionize mathematics formative assessment and improve students' problem-solving skills. This study adopted the analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation (ADDIE) instructional design model stages. The design stage created a comprehensive assessment blueprint, incorporating GeoGebra Classroom functions to create interactive problem-solving tasks. Data analysis used both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Qualitative data consisted of feedback and suggestions from assessment experts, mathematicians, and GeoGebra specialists. Meanwhile, quantitative data included expert scores and cognitive tests that measured students' problem-solving abilities. A cognitive post-test was conducted to measure the progress of students' understanding while using the assessment product. The results of the content validity analysis, assessed using Aiken's V, ranged from 0.85 to 0.92, indicating a high level of validity for the problem-solving skills assessment in terms of content and construction. Some revisions were made to the design of the developed media to make it more interactive for students. These findings suggest that we can further use problem-solving questions integrated with GeoGebra Classroom to uncover the problem-solving skills of junior high school students.

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1038

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Mathematics education has always been a subject of continuous exploration and innovation, aiming to enhance students' understanding and application of mathematical concepts in real-world scenarios [1], [2]. It is important to note that effective mathematics education does not only teach formulas and facts but also builds a deep understanding and application of concepts in the context of everyday life. Problem-solving is one of the critical aspects of mathematics learning because it cultivates analytical thinking, logical reasoning, and creativity, all of which are essential skills for students to succeed in mathematics and other aspects of life [2]. Therefore, designing practical assessments to evaluate students' problem-solving skills is paramount in mathematics education.

Mathematical problem-solving tests are an urgent and essential need in mathematics education research instruments and mathematics learning outcomes instruments. Problem-solving tests are needed because it is one of the efforts to improve students' mathematical problem-solving ability as the primary goal

of learning mathematics [3], [4]. In addition, the mathematics problem-solving test is one of the essential components of the independent curriculum [5], [6]. The independent curriculum emphasizes problem-based learning, focusing on students' ability to solve problems effectively and creatively [5]–[7].

In mathematics learning, mathematical problem-solving tests can help teachers evaluate students' ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts in real-life situations and non-routine mathematical problems [3], [4]. Problem-solving tests can also help students develop critical, creative, and innovative thinking skills for solving complex problems [8]. In addition, math problem-solving tests can also help teachers evaluate the effectiveness of learning and the success of implementing an independent curriculum [9]. With problem-solving tests, teachers can determine the extent of students's ability to solve problems related to mathematical concepts learned for follow-up activities.

In recent years, technology has become a powerful tool to revolutionize how educators teach and students learn. One such technological advancement is GeoGebra Classroom, an interactive mathematics software that integrates various mathematical representations, including algebra, geometry, calculus, and statistics, to foster a dynamic learning environment [10]–[12]. Using GeoGebra Classroom enables teachers to create interactive lessons and assessments that actively engage students in learning, promoting a more profound understanding and meaningful application of mathematical concepts [11].

There are several technologies focused on math tests that can be used to represent, explore, and perform math tasks: dynamic geometry software (DGS), computational and representation tools (Wolfram's alpha) [13], Microworlds, or computer simulations [14]), and assistive technologies that are useful for explaining, sharing, and discussing mathematical ideas or problems (communication applications such as Skype or FaceTime and presentation technologies such as Keynote or PowerPoint). There are also online platforms that include videos to explain mathematical themes, examples of proposed problems and tasks (https://www.khanacademy.org/coach/dashboard), or online development (https://www.wikipedia.org) where students can consult information about content, concepts, or events [15], [16]. All these technological developments provide different conveniences for teachers and students to work on math problems. The aim is for students to use them throughout all their learning experiences.

Several studies have shown positive results regarding integrating technology in math problem-solving tests. It revealed that the problem-solving ability of high school students who were given GeoGebra integration with a problem-based approach was better than that of those who were given conventional tests [17]. In addition, integrating assessment with technology offers opportunities to design rich, dynamic, and interactive items [18]. The digital assessment facilitates items that allow students to manipulate objects, explore non-fixed properties, or create examples. Additionally, we can design items with multiple correct answers or completion strategies, and use various item types. Appropriate feedback designs and scoring rules or grading schemes can be created and implemented [19].

This article focuses on developing a novel assessment design that integrates GeoGebra Classroom to evaluate students' problem-solving skills in mathematics. The objective is to harness the potential of technology to enhance traditional assessment methods and foster a more comprehensive and immersive learning experience for students. Consequently, it is necessary to research the design of a prototype of the DGS-integrated mathematics problem-solving skills assessment, namely the GeoGebra Classroom. This research is expected to present an alternative technology-integrated test focusing on problem-solving. The specific objectives of the research to be carried out are to produce validity for the problem-solving test of the DGS integrated problem-solving test.

#### 2. METHOD

# 2.1. Research design

This study's research methodology employs the analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation (ADDIE) development model, which comprises five sequential stages: analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation [20]. The ADDIE model provides a systematic framework for designing and evaluating teaching materials or learning media. The analysis stage is used to understand learning needs and objectives; design includes detailed planning; development involves making materials; implementation is the stage of implementation in the field; and evaluation focuses on assessing the effectiveness and improvement of learning content. This study's application of the ADDIE model ensures an in-depth analysis-based teaching material development process and continuous evaluation of implementation results. The study visualizes the five stages, as shown in Figure 1.

The analysis phase involves exploring learning objectives and understanding the educational context. The design phase further focuses on creating a comprehensive assessment blueprint, where integrating GeoGebra Classroom features plays an important role in designing interactive problem-solving tasks that challenge students to apply mathematical concepts in real-world scenarios.

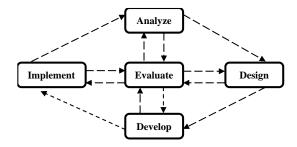


Figure 1. ADDIE development model

At the development stage, this research aims to prove the validation of the assessment. The draft instrument has been validated to obtain expert judgment. The instrument that has proven its validity will be tested on a limited basis with some junior high school students in Surabaya, East Java. The product trial design in this study involves a content validation step to prove the validity of each item developed. This step is carried out to ensure the accuracy of the items developed.

## 2.2. Content validity

In this study, data were obtained from the results of instrument validation, expert judgment, and student responses to the readability of assigned math assignments or problems. The researchers processed the data from the instrument validation results quantitatively, taking into account the expert comments, and then made improvements to the instrument until they declared it valid and feasible for use. The data from the results of the readability of the instrument by students was processed qualitatively and using certain criteria so that the instrument was declared to need improvement or not.

Expert consensus determines the validity. Experts in the relevant field assess the domain to determine the content's validity [21], [22]. Experts deem tools like tests or questionnaires valid when they agree that they accurately measure the mastery of a specified domain. We use Aiken's formula to determine accuracy. Aiken developed the formula V to compute the content-validity coefficient, grounded on evaluations from an expert panel of n individuals regarding how accurately an item reflects the targeted domain. Aiken illustrates his formula (1) [22] as follows:

$$v = \frac{\sum s}{n(c-1)} \tag{1}$$

where,

v = Aiken's index validity

s = r-lo

lo = lowest validity score
 highest validity score
 score given by rater
 the number of rater

One can assess the validity of an item or instrument based on three categories by calculating the V index. If the V index is less than or equal to 0.4, validity is considered low, indicating limitations in measuring the intended concept. If the index ranges from 0.4 to 0.8, the validity is considered moderate, indicating an adequate level of measurement conformity. Meanwhile, suppose the V index is more significant than 0.8. In that case, the validity is considered very high, indicating a strong ability of the item or instrument to measure the concept accurately and consistently [22].

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

# 3.1. The problem-solving instruments

This instrument, focusing on junior high school students, aims to test and uncover their mathematical problem-solving skills using GeoGebra Classroom. Additionally, the instrument's design aims to gauge students' technological proficiency. The instrument also aims to support the development of students' problem-solving skills. Furthermore, it helped identify specific areas that required further attention, allowing for a more targeted approach to learning. The instrument comprises 7 questions, each designed to align with the learning outcomes of the independent curriculum in phase D and tailored to various problem-solving scenarios. Table 1 shows the results of the problem grids that were developed.

|  | Table 1. The framework of mathematic | problem solving integrate | ed with GeoGebra Classroom |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|

| Table 1. The framework of mathematics problem solving integrated with GeoGebra Classroom  |                                       |                     |  |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Learning Outcomes   | Topic                                 | Problems<br>Type    | Designed Tasks   |  |  |
| Numbers  By the end of phase D, learners can read, write and compare whole numbers, rational and irrational numbers, decimal numbers, whole numbers and roots, and numbers in scientific notation. They can apply arithmetic operations to real numbers and provide estimates in problem-solving (including concerning financial literacy). In problem-solving, learners can use prime factorization and ratio (scale, proportion, and rate of change).   | Integers                              | Finding and proving | Find properties of integers that can be expressed as the sum of consecutive integers   |  |  |
| Algebra  By the end of phase D, learners can recognize, predict and generalize patterns in the form of arrangements of objects and numbers. They can express a situation in algebraic form. They can use the properties of operations (commutative, associative, and distributive) to produce equivalent algebraic forms. Learners can understand relations and functions (domain, codomain, range) and present them as arrow diagrams, tables, sets of ordered pairs, and graphs. They can distinguish some nonlinear functions from linear functions graphically. They can solve linear equations and inequalities of one variable. They can present, analyze and solve problems using relations, functions, and linear equations. They can solve systems of linear equations of two variables through several ways of problem-solving.   | Linear<br>Function                    | Finding             | Find the characteristics of the graph of the function f(x)=mx+c with the following categories (1) m>0 and c>0 (2) m>0 and c<0 (3) m>0 and c=0 (4) m<0 and c>0 (5) m<0 and c<0 (6) m<0 and c=0 by pairing in each category (some pairs are true and some are false) with arguments            |  |  |
|   |                                       | Open-Ended          | Find the general form of the linear function $f(x)=mx+c$ through the point $(1,2)$ .   |  |  |
| <i>Measurement</i> By the end of phase D, learners can explain how to determine the area of a circle and solve related problems. They can explain how to determine the surface area and volume of spatial shapes (prisms, tubes, balls, pyramids, and cones) and solve related problems. They can explain the effect of proportional changes of flat and spatial shapes on the length, angle magnitude, area, and volume.   | Area of an<br>equilateral<br>triangle | Proving             | Based on the exploration above,<br>Abdul thinks that to get a triangle<br>with an area of 2 times the<br>original triangle, then what can<br>be done is to double the length of<br>each side of the triangle. Is this<br>opinion right or wrong? Please<br>share your opinion on this        |  |  |
|   | Rectangle                             | Proving             | matter.  The area and perimeter of a rectangle will remain the same when the length is doubled, and the width is halved.  Is it always true, sometimes accurate, or not true? Explain your reasoning.  |  |  |
| Geometry  By the end of phase D, learners can construct the nets of spatial figures (prisms, cubes, pyramids, and cones) and build the figures from their nets. Learners can use the relationship between angles formed by two intersecting lines and by two parallel lines cut by a transversal line to solve problems (including determining the sum of the angles in a triangle and the magnitude of an unknown angle in a triangle). They can explain the properties of congruence and similarity in triangles and quadrilaterals and use them to solve problems. They can demonstrate the correctness of the Pythagorean theorem and use it in solving problems (including the distance between two points on the Cartesian coordinate plane). Learners can perform a single transformation (reflection, translation, rotation, and dilation) of points, lines, and flat figures on the Cartesian coordinate plane and use it to solve problems. | Reflection<br>on the line<br>x=h      | Finding             | Through exploring the reflection of a point on the line x=h in GeoGebra, students can determine some of the following problems:  Determine the image of A(21,22) with respect to x=10  Determine h if point (a,b) becomes point (a', b')  Determine the shadow of A(a,b) with respect to x=h |  |  |
| Statistics and probability  By the end of phase D, learners can formulate a question and collect, present, and analyze data to answer the question. They can use bar charts and pie charts to present and interpret data. They can take a representative population sample to obtain data about them and their environment. They can determine and interpret the mean, median, mode, and range of data to solve problems (including comparing data to its group, comparing two data groups, predicting, and making decisions). They can investigate possible changes to the center measurement due to changes in the data. Learners can explain and use the notions of probability and relative frequency to determine the expected frequency of an event in a simple experiment (all outcomes can occur equally).  | Mean                                  | Proving             | Prove that the average of a set of numbers will increase by n if each number in the set is increased by n?   |  |  |

Here is one example of a problem that measures maths problem-solving skills integrated with the GeoGebra Classroom problem-solving skills, as shown in Figure 2. In this context, students are allowed to conduct an interactive exploration of the characteristics of the graph of the linear function f(x)=mx+c, where

m is the slope of the line and c is the intersection with the y-axis. By changing the values of m and c, students can immediately see the impact of these changes on the shape and position of the graph. For example, when changing m, they will observe how the line becomes steeper or flatter depending on whether the value of m is positive or negative. Similarly, when changing c, they will observe how the position of the line changes concerning the y-axis.

This exploration can help students better understand the relationship between the parameters m and c and the shape of the graph [23], [24]. They can relate mathematical concepts such as slope and the intersection of axes y-axis with the concrete visualizations they produce. Through this interactive experience, students can internalize these concepts better than simply listening to theoretical explanations. In addition, this exploration can also arouse students' curiosity and curiosity toward the mathematical relationships underlying the graphs of linear functions [25]. This way, using tools such as GeoGebra can help create more engaging, effective, and interactive learning in understanding basic mathematical concepts such as linear functions [25].

After students undertake an interactive exploration by manipulating the values of m and c in the equation f(x)=mx+c, they are confronted with questions that encourage the development of problem-solving skills and deep understanding, as shown in Figure 3. One such question is how to describe the characteristics of the f(x)=mx+c graph when m>0 and c>0. In answering this question, students must apply their understanding of slope (m) concepts and intersection with the y-axis (c). When m>0, they will realize that the graph will have a positive slope, indicating that the line will tend to rise from the bottom left to the top right. It indicates that the larger the value of x, the larger the value of f(x), which corresponds to a steady and steady increase in this relationship. On the other hand, when c>0, students will notice that the graph intersects the y-axis at a favorable point on the y scale, indicating that the line has a positive y-value when x=0.

Students can develop analytical and communicative thinking skills by responding to such questions. They can articulate their understanding of the relationship between the values of m and c with a graph and exercise their ability to think logically and formulate arguments. In addition, this kind of questioning also helps students develop their visual analytical acuity and ability to relate mathematical concepts to the graphical representations they generate through GeoGebra [26].

# 3.2. Proving the content validity

At the validation stage of the problem-solving skills test instrument, the researcher evaluates the test that has been developed. The test was assessed based on several aspects, namely material aspects, construction aspects, language aspects, and media aspects. Each test item is given a score based on these four aspects of assessment. The assessment was conducted by two mathematics education assessment experts and one mathematics expert, who answered the questions and gave scores based on predetermined assessment aspects, as presented in Table 2.

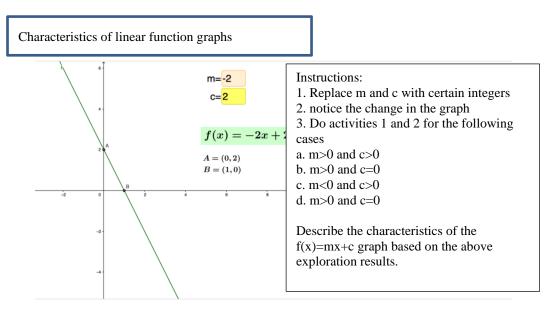


Figure 2. An example of a problem integrated with GeoGebra Classroom linear function topic

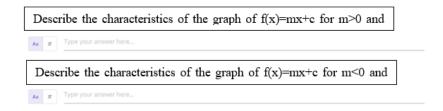


Figure 3. Some sample problems were provided to students after their exploration

Table 2. The Results of content validity

| Items | Expert 1 | Expert 2 | Expert 3 | Validity index |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| 1     | 4        | 3        | 4        | 0.89           |
| 2     | 4        | 3        | 3        | 0.78           |
| 3     | 3        | 3        | 3        | 0.67           |
| 4     | 3        | 3        | 4        | 0.78           |
| 5     | 4        | 3        | 4        | 0.89           |
| 6     | 4        | 3        | 4        | 0.89           |
| 7     | 4        | 3        | 4        | 0.89           |

This process's results indicate the validity level of the developed problem-solving skills test. Expert views express this validity score in the form of Aiken's V index, measuring the extent to which the test items can be considered valid. The Aiken's V validity score range is 0.37 to 1.00, and in this study, the Aiken's V index value for seven items ranged from 0.67 to 0.89. According to the assessment that has been conducted, all items are considered valid and suitable for use in the next stage of the empirical trial [21], [22], and [27].

This result is in line with the interpretation steps used by other researchers [28], where if the item validity score is within the range of 0.37 to 1.00, then the items are considered valid. Thus, this finding provides confidence that the test instrument developed through this validation stage has passed a careful evaluation process and is ready to be empirically tested to measure problem-solving skills in the intended subjects.

# 3.3. Proving validity based on the student response process

Validity based on student response processes focuses on understanding how students think and respond during the assessment process. In an educational context, this relates to how students' approach, process, and answer questions in a test or assessment instrument. Researchers analyse students' responses to each item or question to ensure an assessment instrument is valid in this context.

GeoGebra Classroom allows for the recording of students' problem-solving processes, as shown in Figure 4. Students have tried to replace the numbers on the left and observe the average change after adding a certain number on the right. However, the initial draft of GeoGebra Classroom needs to embed the questions students answer. So that students write their answers on paper, as shown in Figure 5.

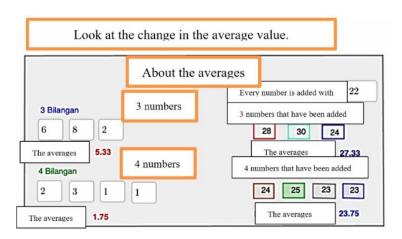
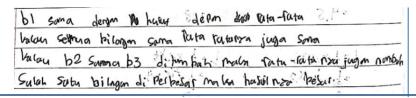


Figure 4. Results of student work in GeoGebra Classroom

In addition, the student also revealed that he needed clarification about what was asked from this problem because no questions directed students to solve the average topic problem. It can be seen from the student's answer, which is still general and does not lead to the specific characteristics of the average of a number when summed with several ns. Therefore, this question needs to be revised. Therefore, this question needs to be revised by adding questions that can direct students to conclude according to the learning objectives. The revision is made by adding questions after students explore GeoGebra, as shown in Figure 6.



**Translate:** b1 is equal to the front result of the average. If all numbers are the same, the average is the same. If b2 and b3 are added, the average is also increased. If one of the numbers is increased, the result is increased.

Figure 5. Student's conclusion on paper

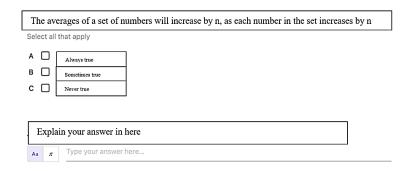


Figure 6. The results of the revision of the question according to the validation evidence of the student work process

It ensures that students can solve the problems presented in the GeoGebra Classroom. By understanding how students process information and make decisions when answering problems, educators can ensure that the problem measures the intended construct and that no other factors (e.g., reading ability or guessing strategies) are present [29]. Therefore, relying on response processes for validity enhances the assurance that the assessment tool accurately captures the ability or knowledge under evaluation, instead of focusing on irrelevant variables [30], [31].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The final product of this research is a valid assessment instrument for problem-solving skills, integrated with the GeoGebra Classroom, based on the results and discussions. The development process involved the definition, design, and development of this instrument. The assessment instrument consists of seven essay questions that have been declared to have appropriate content validity. The instrument developed has an Aiken validity coefficient of 0.67–0.89 (high). Therefore, the developed instrument can be used as an accurate learning assessment tool or assessment of problem-solving skills. Some suggestions that can be conveyed based on the results of this study in the context of developing learning assessment instruments include the following: In junior high school mathematics studies, teachers can use the problem-solving skills on other topics. Other researchers can use the results of this study as a reference for integrating problem-solving-based mathematics learning with technology.

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